



Dear Colleague,

Summer 2013

LANDFIRE is an interagency vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics mapping program, sponsored by the United States Departments of Agriculture, Forest Service and the Interior (DOI) ([www.landfire.gov](http://www.landfire.gov)). LANDFIRE is also partnered with The Nature Conservancy. LANDFIRE produces a comprehensive, consistent, scientifically credible suite of spatial data layers for the entire United States and insular areas. LANDFIRE data products consist of over 20 national geo-spatial layers, databases, and ecological models that support a range of land management analysis and modeling. Specific data layer products include: Existing Vegetation Type, Canopy Cover, and Height; Biophysical Settings; Environmental Site Potential; Fire Behavior Fuel Models; Fire Regime Classes; and Fire Effects layers.

LANDFIRE data layers traverse jurisdictional land boundaries and provide the public free-data products for numerous applications, including landscape conservation and wildland fire management. LANDFIRE data products are designed to facilitate national- and regional-level strategic planning and reporting of management activities. Data products are created at a 30-meter grid spatial resolution raster data set; however, the applicability of data products varies by location and specific use. Users are advised to evaluate the data carefully for their applications ([http://www.landfire.gov/library\\_guidelines.php](http://www.landfire.gov/library_guidelines.php)).

LANDFIRE has recently expanded its mapping scope to include the US insular areas of American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Marshall Islands, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Products for the insular areas are available at [http://www.landfire.gov/islands\\_download.php](http://www.landfire.gov/islands_download.php).

If you manage or coordinate vegetation and landscape data sets in these areas then the LANDFIRE Program needs your data. Local data sets are important to the LANDFIRE update process and updated information is important to decision making in fire and non-fire programs and organizations across the country. Locally provided landscape data does impact LANDFIRE and evidence is available for review at [http://www.landfire.gov/lf\\_impacts.php](http://www.landfire.gov/lf_impacts.php). The next LANDFIRE update will be called LANDFIRE 2012 and will comprise data primarily from 2011/2012 but is inclusive of data from 1999 - 2012.

**LANDFIRE Data Needs:**

**Polygons of Disturbance and Treatment Activities:**

*Our priority for the next data draw is to collect disturbance and treatment polygon data that occurred during 2011-2012.* LANDFIRE uses recent disturbance and treatment data for biennial updates to update map layers in areas where vegetation and fuel have changed, keeping the data as current as possible. Table 1 gives examples of these data and relevant attributes. At a minimum, the disturbance/treatment polygons must be attributed by disturbance/treatment or Event type and year of occurrence. For more information on LANDFIRE’s disturbance and treatment data needs visit [http://www.landfire.gov/participate\\_contribute.php](http://www.landfire.gov/participate_contribute.php).

**Table 1. Disturbance/treatment (Event) types & attributes**

Category	Event Type	Attributes <sup>*Required</sup>
Fire	Wildfires	Event ID
	Prescribed Fires	Event type *
Disturbances	Insects & Disease	Event name
	Weather Damage	Year of event *
Treatments	Harvest/Thinning	Start date
	Other Mechanical	End date
	Seeding/Planting	Event severity
Data / Information	Chemical	Reporting entity (e.g., FS, NPS, BLM, FWS)
	Exotic Plant Species	Notes (e.g., effects on veg. or fuel)



**Vegetation and Fuel Plot Data:**

LANDFIRE benefits from contributions of any geo-referenced point or polygon vegetation or fuel plot data along with any associated digital photos, project descriptions, or final reports. LANDFIRE relies on user contributed plot data for training sites in mapping processes and may also use this information during updates. Table 2 gives examples of the types of vegetation and fuels data needed for LANDFIRE. For more information on LANDFIRE's plot data needs visit [http://www.landfire.gov/participate\\_plot.php](http://www.landfire.gov/participate_plot.php).

**Table 2. Vegetation and Fuel data for LANDFIRE.**

Category	Possible Plot Attributes
Sampling Unit	Geo-reference (required)
	Sampling date
Vegetation	Cover type and/or potential vegetation type label
	Full or partial list of plant taxa with estimates of canopy cover and height (if available).
	Measurements of individual trees (may include diameters, height, crown base height, crown ratio, crown class, and/or density)
Fuels	Counts or biomass measures of fine and coarse woody material
	Depth or biomass measures of litter and duff layers
	Biomass measures of live and dead shrub or herbaceous material
	Fuel Model

**Feedback on Current Data Products:**

LANDFIRE also welcomes feedback on current LF2010 (LF 1.2.0) map products. Feedback information addresses discrepancies between the existing map products and known field conditions. Various types of feedback are accepted and can include comments, local vegetation or fuel maps, or edited LANDFIRE map products.



**Data Submission and Contributions:**

LANDFIRE collects and welcomes data submissions on an annual basis throughout the year. The data submission deadline for 2013 has been extended to **December 4** due to the Government shutdown. Data submitted before December 4 will be evaluated for incorporation into the next scheduled LANDFIRE update cycle. Data submitted after December 4 will be evaluated for subsequent LANDFIRE updates. For more information visit [http://www.landfire.gov/participate\\_contribute.php](http://www.landfire.gov/participate_contribute.php) or contact:

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LANDFIRE also acquires data from websites and agency data base systems. A list of these sources can be found in the "Website Agency DB" spreadsheet at [http://www.landfire.gov/participate\\_refdata\\_sub.php](http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata_sub.php). If your data are stored on one of these websites or agency databases, verify updated data are posted to ensure it will be evaluated for potential use in the next LANDFIRE update. For a list of past data contributions see the "Compiled Data" spreadsheet at [http://www.landfire.gov/participate\\_refdata\\_sub.php](http://www.landfire.gov/participate_refdata_sub.php).